

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 091092

NODIS

CHEROKEE

FOL RPT CAIRO 10334 SENT ACTION SECSTATE DTD 08 APR 78

QUOTE: S E C R E T CAIRO 10334

NODIS CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: IS, US

SUBJECT: U.S. PRESS STORIES ABOUT U.S. INTENTIONS

- IN MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 90422

1. WITH SADAT ENGAGED TODAY WITH VISITING AFGHAN
PRESIDENT, I CALLED VP MUBARAK AND TOLD HIM ABOUT NEW
YORK TIMES STORY. HE HAD NOT SEEN OR HEARD OF IT SO
I GAVE HIM THE GIST OF THE STORY. I NOTED ATTRIBUTION
SUGGESTS THAT SOME EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL WHO KNOWS ABOUT
WHAT WAS DISCUSSED AT CAMP DAVID HAS BRIEFED WREN AND
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PERHAPS OTHERS. TOLD HIM WE ARE ALSO GETTING QUERIES
FROM LOS ANGELES TIMES WHICH APPARENTLY HAS SIMILAR
STORIES. I EMPHASIZED TO MUBARAK THAT THIS TYPE OF
DISCLOSURE IS DAMAGING AND COMPLICATES THE ROLE WE
WANT TO PLAY AND WHICH WAS DISCUSSED BETWEEN OUR TWO
PRESIDENTS IN CAMP DAVID. I URGED THAT STEPS BE TAKEN
TO INSURE THAT THERE BE NO FURTHER BRIEFINGS ALONG THESE

LINES. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE SECRETARY CAN BE ASSURED THAT THEIR EXCHANGES WITH SADAT ON PEACE PROCESS WILL IN FUTURE BE HELD IN FULL CONFIDENCE. I ALSO TOLD HIM ABOUT REFERENCE TO WEIZMAN AND REPEATED WHAT I HAVE ALREADY SAID TO HIM MANY TIMES BEFORE: NAMELY, THAT IF EGYPTIANS BELIEVE WEIZMAN IS INDEED PLAYING USEFUL ROLE, THEY ARE THEMSELVES UNDERCUTTING IT BY PUBLIC STATEMENTS TOUTING HIM AS A POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR TO BEGIN.

2. MUBARAK IMMEDIATELY GOT THE POINT. HE SAID HE WOULD BE SEEING SADAT WITHIN THE HOUR AND WOULD RAISE THE MATTER WITH HIM. I AGAIN ASKED HIM TO STRESS THE DAMAGE THAT THIS SORT OF DISCLOSURE CAUSES FOR PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE SECRETARY AND, BY DERIVATION, FOR EGYPT'S OWN HOPES. MUBARAK AGREED.

3. I SUBSEQUENTLY CALLED FONMIN KAMEL AND MADE THE SAME PRESENTATION TO HIM. WHEN HE HEARD THE STORY, HE WAS EQUALLY UPSET AND UNDERTOOK TO LOOK INTO WHERE THE LEAK MIGHT HAVE OCCURRED AND TO PLUG FUTURE LEAKS. HE ASSURED ME THAT NEITHER HE NOR AHMED MAHER (BOTH OF WHOM WERE PRESENT) HAVE SPOKEN TO WREN OR TO SCHANCHE (LOS ANGELES TIMES) ABOUT THIS.

4. COMMENT: IN MULLING OVER WHERE THE LEAK MIGHT POSSI-
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BLY HAVE OCCURRED, I DOUBT THAT ANY OF THE PRINCIPALS WHO WERE ACTUALLY INVOLVED IN THE TALKS IS RESPONSIBLE. SO FAR AS I AM AWARE, SADAT HIMSELF HAS NOT IN PAST FEW DAYS SEEN EITHER WREN OR SCHANCHE. I BELIEVE KAMEL'S ASSURANCE THAT NEITHER HE NOR MAHER DID SO. SAYED MAREI HAD EARLIER BEEN CAUTIONED BY KAMEL AND BY ME ABOUT THE SENSITIVITY OF THIS INFORMATION AND DOES NOT IN ANY CASE NORMALLY GIVE PRESS CONFERENCES. SAME IS TRUE FOR PRESIDENCY DIRECTOR HASSAN KAMEL. MUBARAK WAS DOUBTLESS BRIEFED BY SADAT AFTER LATTER'S RETURN, BUT ALSO NEVER GIVES PRESS CONFERENCES. MY GUESS (AND IT IS PURELY A GUESS) IS THE LEAK CAME FROM OSAMA AL-BAZ, WHO IS NOW ATTACHED TO THE VP'S OFFICE AND WAS PROBABLY PRESENT FOR SADAT'S BRIEFING OR HEARD IT INDIRECTLY FROM THE VP OR KAMEL. AL-BAZ IS A WALKING SIEVE THESE DAYS. I SHALL KEEP AFTER MUBARAK AND KAMEL TO TRY TO IDENTIFY THE LEAK AND, EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY, PLUG IT.

5. SHOULD NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT KINGSBURY SMITH OF HEARST NEWSPAPERS CAME BY YESTERDAY AND BROUGHT UP THE SAME SUBJECT. HE CLAIMED THIS HAD BEEN IMPLIED IN BRIEFING GIVEN HIM BY "HIGH LEVEL" DEPT OFF (UNIDENTI-

FIED) PRIOR HIS DEPARTURE FOR MIDDLE EAST. I DECLINED
COMMENT.

6. DEPT MAY WISH REPEAT THIS MESSAGE TO TEL AVIV.
EILTS UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

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